Dear Neighbors, 9 Dec 90 [1990]

Thank you for the holiday photo and note of encouragement. It was a very nice surprise to hear from you. As you may know the mail is predictably slow and yet unpredictable. Delivery times are a daily paradox. I think there is an obscure but often used military postal service regulation that requires 1/3 of a soldiers mail be misplaced for 14-21 days, 1/3 to burned in tent fires never to be delivered, 1/3 to routed by the most indirect route, and 1/3 to be placed in storage. I know these fractions don't seem to add up to 100%, but trust me, the government knows what it is doing.

Would you believe the gas pump price here is less than 10 cents a gallon? I now understand the significance of Naked Aggression. Seriously, I am doing fine and a bit tired. The pace here can at times be breakneck and ponderously slow motion.

Glad to hear of Kimberly's success and opportunity to visit Russia. That must have been very exciting. And the possibilities for a Russia linguist in light of recent world events/relations with Soviet Union must be endless. I am happy for her and know you must be proud. There must be endless applications involving theatre work as well (in combination)!

Also sounds as though Hal is well and taking the future cautiously under consideration. Better to not rush into things and career. I didn't prepare myself very well and limited my option considerably, but it has worked out in a fashion. This coming April I'll have invested 9 years on active duty in the Army. It has not been a bad life, but it's associations have not had much in common with the world of Fine Arts from my upbringing. I miss it often times. Where does the time go?

Hope your Thanksgiving was enjoyed and would wish you all the very merry x-mas and New Years. Please say hello for me to folks next door if they suddenly manifest themselves. Take Care.

Robert

Letter to Lew and Kathy Hackleman from Robert Hounchell (Helicopter pilot in the army during Desert Storm conflict)

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Kathy Hackleman
from Robert Hounchell
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